



5-Year Plan (2010 to 2015)

Jefferson Co. Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Al Latham, 360-385-4105, al@jeffersoncd.org



Organization of the Jefferson Co. Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

- Serving Jefferson County landowners since 1946.
- Five-member board of volunteer supervisors, three elected locally and two appointed by Washington State Conservation Commission provides leadership to address local resource conservation issues.

Function of the Jefferson Co. Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

We Serve & Why

- We serve the residents of Jefferson Co. as stated in RCW 89.08.

Mission of the Jefferson Co. Conservation District

- The Jefferson County Conservation District mission is to maintain and expand economically viable agriculture and forestry operations while protecting and improving the natural resources of Jefferson Co. by providing technical assistance to landowners, community groups and agencies.

Vision of the Jefferson Co. Conservation District

- Economically sustainable farms and forests, with free-flowing, healthy streams in viable human and wildlife communities

Values of the Jefferson Co. Conservation District

- Local control and common sense.
- Respect for the wisdom of land managers.
- Assist land managers in understanding and addressing natural resource issues;
- Assist those who want to use conservation measures to improve water quality and salmon habitat;
- Create understanding between farmers and those who don't farm on habitat issues;
- Maintain agriculture and forestry in the county on an economically sustainable level;
- Provide services and implement conservation practices that make a difference to landowners and natural resources, on a voluntary basis;
- Provide a resource to the public by being a liaison between landowners/operators and agencies;

Natural Resource Priorities, Measures of Success and Goals:

- **To have JCCD be lead agency for natural resource programs in the county**
- By 2015 JCCD will be recognized as the lead agency for coordination of natural resource related activities in Jefferson Co., with adequate funding to do the job.
- **Provide technical assistance to private landowners for natural resource improvement**
 - By 2015 JCCD will have effective programs to help agriculture and forestry stay vital while addressing wildlife, fish and water resource concerns.
 - Develop Agriculture, Fish & Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans for County watersheds.
- **Improved Water Quality**
 - By 2015 all our streams with significant agricultural activity will have improved water quality compared to 2004 data.
- **Improved Aquatic Vegetation Management**
 - By 2015 an aquatic vegetation management plan is implemented and working in Jefferson Co. streams.

- **Assist landowners with solutions to on-farm drainage issues.**
 - Much of our agricultural land depends on good drainage. Assisting landowners with maintaining existing drainage systems is an ongoing component of District programs.
 - **Successful implementation of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**
 - By 2015 all stream buffers established under CREP will be functioning to improve fish/wildlife habitat, stream temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels.
- Jefferson Co. Watershed Plans and Puget Sound Action Area priorities are implemented.**
- By 2015 there will be measurable success implementing components of the various watershed plans and Puget Sound Action Plans.
-

Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)

- All land within the Jefferson Co. Conservation District boundary.
-

Information – Education Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

- **Increase public education/outreach programs to inform landowners and the public about the district and issues**
 - Create small farm education and demonstration projects
 - Obtain funding to publish a quarterly newsletter.
 - Assist school programs dealing with water quality and other natural resource issues.
 - Conduct a yearly tree sale
 - Promote balanced educational programs on natural resources.
-

District Operations Priorities Measures of Success, and Goals:

- **Obtain stable funding for JCCD programs**
 - Work with Jefferson Co. Board of Commissioners, Washington Assoc. of Conservation Districts and Conservation Commission to develop stable funding for JCCD programs.
 - Maintain staff salaries/benefits commensurate with other Conservation Districts.
 - Provide training opportunities for Supervisors and staff.
-

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Jefferson Co. Conservation District and Strategies to address them:

TREND: Increased scrutiny on the management of water resources on and near agricultural lands

STRATEGIES:

- Water quality monitoring program documents surface water quality in agricultural areas.
- Technical assistance to landowners addressing water quality, drainage and irrigation efficiency.

TREND: More natural resource property being developed for other uses.

STRATEGIES:

- Work with landowners to develop programs oriented towards optimizing production on existing natural resource lands.
- Work with landowners to develop programs to address natural resource conservation on smaller parcels.

TREND :Declining funding for cost-share programs addressing natural resource concerns.

STRATEGIES:

- Work with agencies and local partners to maximize efficient use of available funds.

TREND: Increased demand for locally produced agricultural products.

STRATEGIES:

- Assist landowners with development of value added agricultural products for local markets.
- Assist the agricultural community with farmland preservation/protection options.
- Provide technical assistance to improve crop production.

TREND: Cutbacks in DNR programs assisting non-industrial forest landowners

STRATEGIES:

- *Provide forest management assistance to non-industrial forest landowners.*
-

Natural Resource Data:

- Jefferson Co. Conservation District Reports <http://jeffersoncd.org/reports.html>
 - Watershed Management Plan for the Quilcene-Snow Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA 17) <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0306029.pdf>
 - Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Limiting Factors Water Resource Inventory Area 17 Quilcene-Snow Watersheds <http://www.wria17.org/index.php?id=3,14,0,0,1,0>
 - WRIA 17 Technical Assessment <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/docs/STAGE%201%20ASSESSMENT.PDF>
 - WRIA 17 Detailed Implementation Plan <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/docs/STAGE%201%20ASSESSMENT.PDF>
 - WRIA 16 Watershed Management Plan http://www.co.mason.wa.us/forms/Community_Dev/WRIA_16_Draft.pdf
 - Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Limiting Factors WRIA 16 <http://www.scc.wa.gov/index.php/228-WRIA-16-Skokomish-and-Dosewallips-watersheds/View-category.html>
 - SALMON AND STEELHEAD HABITAT LIMITINGFACTORS IN THE NORTH WASHINGTON COASTAL STREAMS OF WRIA 20 <http://www.scc.wa.gov/index.php/Search/newest-first/Page-6-20.html?searchphrase=any&searchword=wria+19>
 - Soleduck-Hoh Watershed Planning-WRIA 20 <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/wrias/Planning/20.html>
-

Staffing Needs

- *Staff positions needed to carry out the Jefferson Co. Conservation District plan:*
 - *1 fte Manager/technician*
 - *1 fte Administrative Assistant/Education/Small Farms Specialist*
 - *1 fte Water Quality Monitoring Technician*
 - *½ fte CREP Planner*
 - *½ fte Forestry planner*
-

Annual Budget Needs

Operating Budget Needs: To maintain existing programs budget needs total \$281,343 in FY2011 rising to \$316,654 in FY2015 (based on 3% additional/year).

Key Decision Makers

- *Conservation District Board of Supervisors*
 - *Jefferson Co. Board of Commissioners*
 - *Washington Assoc. of Conservation Districts Board*
 - *Washington Conservation Commission*
-

Jefferson Co. Conservation District - assisting land managers with their conservation choices

Jefferson Co. Conservation District

